

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

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AID/SER/INC:MWAMPLER (DRAFT)

IO/HDC:JBUCZACKI (SUBS)

DEA:PBENSINGER (SUBS)

CIA/NARCOG:JSHELDON (SUBS)

CUSTOMS:JMC MANUS (SUBS)

AID/EAA:JCHAMPAGNE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: HELICOPTERS FOR TNPD

REF: (A) BANGKOK 21291; (B) HELICOPTER EVALUATION REPORT
OF JULY 22, 1976

1. SUMMARY: CURRENT WASHINGTON VIEWS ARE THAT IF THE
TNPD WERE TO AGREE TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS (PARA 2 BELOW),
WE WOULD RESUME DELIVERY OF SOME OR ALL OF THE FIVE HELI-
COPTERS PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE TERMS OF OUR 1974 PROJECT
AGREEMENT WITH THE RTG. WE WISH MISSION'S VIEWS BEFORE
DETERMINING NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS TO BE PROVIDED. END
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SUMMARY.

2. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE JOINT THAI-US HELICOPTER EVALUATION MAKES A CONVINCING CASE FOR DELIVERY OF ALL 5 HELICOPTERS AND OUR CURRENT THINKING IS TO PROVIDE THREE ADDITIONAL BELL 205 HELICOPTERS TO THE TNPD ON THE CONDITION THAT THE 1974 PROAG BE AMENDED TO:

A. REQUIRE THAT ALL CCINC FUNDED HELICOPTERS IN THE TPAD, INCLUDING THE TWO PREVIOUSLY DELIVERED, BE BASED IN CHIANG MAI. WE PROPOSE THAT THE TPAD MAINTAIN AND OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT, BUT THAT THEY BE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE BPP REGION V COMMANDER. WHILE WE RECOGNIZED THE SOUND THEORETICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TPAD INTEGRITY, WE NONETHELESS BELIEVE THAT IN PRACTICE THE BPP CAN MAKE THE BEST USE OF THE HELICOPTERS. THE BPP WOULD RELEASE THE HELICOPTERS TO OTHER AGENCIES, AS REQUIRED, TO SUPPORT OTHER NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREED UPON PRIORITIES SET FORTH IN SECTION 5 OF THE 1974 PROAG. WE REALIZE RTG TURNED DOWN SIMILAR PROPOSAL THAT SNO BE GIVEN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF FIRST TWO HELICOPTERS; THEREFORE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO WHETHER RTG WOULD AGREE TO HAVING ALL CCINC-FUNDED HELICOPTERS UNDER BPP CONTROL.

B. REQUIRE THAT THE BPP, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, FIELD ALL 55 ANTI-NARCOTICS TEAMS AGREED TO IN THE 1974 PROAG. PLEASE ADVISE AS TO CORRECT NUMBER OF BPP TEAMS NOW IN EXISTENCE.

C. STIPULATE THAT WHILE HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR UNFDAC SHOULD BE CONTINUED, AS ALLOWED BY SURPLUS HELICOPTER AVAILABILITY AFTER ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED FOR, IT MUST BE DE-EMPHASIZED RELATIVE TO ACTUAL ENFORCEMENT UTILIZATION.

D. PROVIDE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT, AT CCINC EXPENSE, OF A QUALIFIED AVIATION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ADVISOR TO WORK WITH THE TNPD IN CHIANG MAI.

E. STIPULATE THAT ANY NON-ENFORCEMENT RELATED MISSION
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MUST BE ABORTED EXCEPT UNDER EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES IF AN ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENT BECOMES KNOWN FOR THE CCINC HELICOPTERS.

3. WE HAVE NOT AT THIS POINT DECIDED FINALLY WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE REMAINING TWO HELICOPTERS, SHOULD THEY BE HELD BACK. WE REQUEST YOUR VIEWS, INCLUDING ANY POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS AND FUTURE TNPD/US WORKING RELATION-

SHIPS WITH RESPECT TO DISPOSITION OF REMAINING TWO
HELICOPTERS, ON THREE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES:

A. PROVIDE THE REMAINING TWO TO THE RTG DEPARTMENT OF
CUSTOMS. THE DOC IS DEMONSTRATING PROMISE AS AN EFFECTIVE
ANTI-NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION, AND IT WOULD SEEM LIKELY
TO USE ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS EFFECTIVELY. IN THIS CASE,
WE WOULD WANT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THEIR MAINTENANCE
AND USE.

B. HOLD THE OTHER TWO IN STORAGE IN ORDER TO EVALUATE
CONTINUED TNPd PERFORMANCE. IF PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATES
REAL NEED FOR MORE AIRCRAFT, WE COULD THEN DELIVER THE
LAST TWO.

C. SIMPLY PROVIDE THREE AND USE THE OTHER TWO FOR INC
PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE.

4. WHILE REALIZING THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A
DEFINITIVE RESPONSE ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE ABOVE PROPOSALS
BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM AS WE ARE MEETING WITH GENERAL POW
WEDNESDAY NOON. ROBINSON

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